

## Message Text

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42

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EA-07 ITFE-00 DHA-02 OMB-01

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R 061200Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8634

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, US, BL

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN  
REFUGEES FROM US TO LATIN AMERICA

REF: LA PAZ 7706

1. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S MOST RECENT APPROACH TO THE GOB REGARDING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES (REFTEL) SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CARRANZA CALLED ON THE EMBASSY NOVEMBER 4. CARRANZA PRESENTED THE VIEWS OF MINISTER JUAN LECHIN (PLANNING & COORDINATION MINISTRY). HE REPEATED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT TO RECEIVE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WITH AN AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND FOR SETTLEMENT IN BOLIVIA. HE NOTED THAT A PROPOSAL FOR AN AGRICULTURAL COLONY IN THE NORTHERNMOST BOLIVIAN DEPARTMENT OF PANDO HAD BEEN ADVANCED TO ICEM AND TO MR. WRIGHT EARLIER THIS YEAR. MINISTER LECHIN'S OFFER OF LAND FOR THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES REFERRED TO THIS PROPOSAL. (THIS PROJECT, ABAPO-IZOZOG INVOLVED A SETTLEMENT NEAR THE BRAZILIAN BORDER BETWEEN CACHUELA ESPERAZA AND EL CARMEN IN THE PROVINCE OF ABUNA. THE ESTIMATED COST OF SETTLING ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES CAME TO 1,661,550 DOLLARS U.S.)

2. CARRANZA EMPHASIZED THAT APART FROM CONTRIBUTING  
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LAND, THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT FUND ANY

EXPENSES OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. THEREFORE, FOR A RESETTLEMENT PROJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT ALL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPORTING THE REFUGEES FROM THE U.S. TO PANDO, EQUIPPING AND SUBSIDIZING THEM, AND PROVIDING WHATEVER INFRASTRUCTURE WAS REQUIRED TO PERMIT THE SETTLERS TO MAKE A LIVING. HE EXPLAINED THAT, ACCORDING TO MINISTER LECHIN, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE POLITICALLY FOR THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAMESE SETTLERS WHILE ITS OWN CAMPESINOS STILL NEEDED SUBSTANTIAL GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN AID.

3. EMBOFF TOLD CARRANZA THAT USG WAS PREPARING ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS TO FURNISH UP TO \$1000 U.S. DOLLARS PER PERSON FOR TRANSPORTATION AND RESETTLEMENT COSTS OF THE REFUGEES. CARRANZA REITERATED THAT GOB COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BEAR ANY COSTS OTHER THAN THE LAND. EMBOFF UNDERTOOK TO RELAY BOLIVIAN PROPOSAL TO DEPARTMENT AND INFORM MINISTRY OF RESULTS.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE US WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE CONTINUED USG INTEREST IN THE BOLIVIAN OFFER IF RESETTLEMENT COSTS WERE MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER CAPITA. IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT TOTAL COST WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

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